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NOTE VERBALE DATED 5 FEBRUARY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to his note SCPC/2/92 (1) of 28 January 1992, has the honour to provide the following information on the measures taken by the Italian Government pursuant to paragraphs 5, 6 and 9 of Security Council resolution 733 (1992) on the item entitled "Letter dated 20 January 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/23445)".

Paragraph 5

Italy has immediately and automatically applied, in pursuance of its law No. 185/90 on the exports, imports and transfers of armament matériel, the general and complete embargo decided by the Security Council on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Somalia.

Article 1 of the above-mentioned law in fact stipulates that any embargo decided by the United Nations should imply the Italian banning of exports, transfers and imports of armaments listed in article 2 of the same law, which comprises all conventional, as well as nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and missile materials.

The Interministerial Committee presided over by the Prime Minister, which is the highest body administering export licences, in its decision of 12 December 1991, has clearly stated that the military embargoes imposed by the United Nations, such as the one on Somalia, are directly and immediately applicable in Italy.

In view of the civil war in Somalia, no Italian authorization for the transfer of armaments to the said country has been granted as from 1 March 1991.

Paragraph 6

Italy expresses its full support to the call of the Security Council on all States to refrain from any action that might contribute to existing tension in the area or might delay a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Paragraph 9

Italy is already providing assistance to the Somalia refugees in Ethiopia and Kenya and, to this end, it has recently allocated 2.5 billion Italian lire (approximately US\$ 2 million). The Italian Government, however, regards as a necessary prerequisite for the delivery of further assistance directly to people affected in Somalia the improvement of the security situation, particularly in Mogadishu, where public order needs to be urgently restored and, thereafter, properly maintained. Italy, while following with interest and favouring the most recent initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General, hopes to be kept timely informed about new measures that the United Nations may adopt in favour of those populations.

In this connection, the Italian Government reiterates its readiness to contribute to any initiative aimed at normalizing the internal situation, as well as promoting dialogue among the various components of the Somali society.

In this respect, it appears proper to mention that an Italian non-governmental organization (International Committee for the Development of Human Populations) continues to operate in Mogadishu, in order to implement a humanitarian programme funded by Italy.
